

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

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R 220555Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 775

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 11347

FOLLOWING REPEAT CALCUTTA 1980 SENT ACTION NEW DELHI

INFO BOMBAY/MADRAS/DACCA DTD 21 AUG 75

QUOTE:

CALCUTTA 1980

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, US, IN, BG

SUBJ: PRESENTATION TO GOWB CHIEF SECRETARY ON ALLEGATIONS
OF USG INVOLVEMENT IN BANGLADESH COUP

REF: NEW DELHI 1157, 11193; STATE 197054

1. I SPOKE TO GOWB CHIEF SECRETARY GUPTA MORNING AUGUST 21 ABOUT PRESS STORIES ALLEGING USG INVOLVEMENT IN THE BANGLADESH COUP. I SAID BOTH DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND AMERICAN EMBASSY NEW DELHI HAD GIVEN CATEGORICAL ASSURANCE TO GOI THAT THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO INVOLVEMENT BY THE USG OR ANY OF ITS AGENCIES IN THE COUP IN BANGLADESH, AND THAT STORIES TO CONTRARY ARE MALICIOUS AND CALCULATED TO DAMAGE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND INDIA. NOTED USG AID TO BANGLADESH UNDER SHEIKH MUJIB'S LEADERSHIP AND POINTED OUT THAT PRESS STORIES ALLEGING USG INVOLVEMENT IN THE COUP WOULD APPEAR TO VIOLATE THE GOI'S OWN CENSORSHIP GUIDELINES.

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2. GUPTA SAID QTE NO SUCH ARTICLES HAVE BEEN CARRIED IN THE WEST

BENGAL PRAPS UNQTE. I SAID THAT IS NO DOUBT SO IF WHAT HE MEANT WAS THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO, OR AT LEAST, FEW, ATRICLES OR EDITORIALS INDEPENDENTLY ESPOUSING THESE ALLEGATIONS, BUT CONGEN HAD FOLLOWED THE CALCUTTA PRESS CAREFULLY AND HAD SEEN NUMEROUS REPORTS OF STATEMENTS MADE BY VARIOUS PEOPLE OR ORGANIZATIONS ALLEGING USG INVOLVEMENT IN THE COUP. THEIR APPEARANCE, UNDER THE CENSORSHIP REGIME, GAVE THE PUBLIC THE IMPRESSION OF GOWB APPROVAL. I NOTED THAT CPI KALANTUR WAS HAMMERING AWAY DAILY AT THE THEME OF USG INVOLVMENT IN THE COUP.

3. WHEN I MENTIONED THE CPI PAPER GUPTA MUTTERED SOMETHING AS THOUGH TO INDICATE THAT THEY ARE HARD TO CONTROL (OR PERHAPS TO SAY WHAT ELSE COULD ONE EXPECT) BUT OTHERWISE HE SEEMED SYMPATHETIC. HE SAID QTE WE DO NOT WANT THIS SORT OF THING UNQTE AND SAID HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS. KORN

UNQUOTE.
SAXBE

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NNN

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